

Laurel Felber
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My name is Laurel Felber and I suffer from multiple health problems. I ask the EIS to study the impacts of elevated stress and the emotional well being of the people who are opposed to the proposed G.P.T. project or are fearful of the likely impacts the G.P.T project will have on their health and welfare.

I can personally testify to the serious health impacts stress can have a person's health as I suffer from lupus, high blood pressure, Charcot Marie Tooth disorder and am a cancer survivor. All of these diseases can be exacerbated by stress. Stress reduction is one of the key management factors in preventing lupus flares and controlling the disease.

I am asking the EIS to study stress levels due to emotions such as fear, despair, helplessness, impending doom and the frustration of being unable to stop something a person feels is morally wrong.

This project creates measurable stress, even in its proposed state. This can be objectively measured by monitoring cortisol levels, observing psychological indicators or by interviews and surveys. The impacts are likely significant and impact large numbers of people Please study this.

I have personally felt my lupus flare as a result of thinking about the impacts this project will likely cause to my personal health, my property values, the noise level and impacts on my sleep patterns due to increased rail traffic since I live near the rail corridor. I already experience sleep interruptions from train noise from the coal carrying trains on their way to the Westport Terminal in Canada. I fear for my safety from all the health impacts this project is likely to create: I fear for the safety of the food I eat and the local farmers who grow it. I fear for my environment because I care about the local wildlife which are part the natural beauty of the northwest. I fear for the fate of our planet because the increases in carbon dioxide levels from coal burned in China will likely cause irreversible climate change. These are not irrational fears. These are real threats. Any animal experiences cortisol level rises when their life is threatened and a flight or fight ensues. I have felt this type of stress often as I think of the likely impacts this project will cause, if permitted: to myself, my community and our world. Please study this.

I feel this project is morally wrong. I experience a sense of being violated from being forced to be a participant in the shipping of coal to China simply by living in a community which this coal would be transported through, if permitted. This floods me with despair. I object to the coal being mined in the first place. I do not want to be part of the growing pollution problem of China. I object to the growing acidification of our northwest waters and heavy metal such as mercury which are already in our waters due to coal being burned in Asia. These health impacts will be likely be very significant and impact large populations. I object to this project because of global warming. Please study all of this.

Please don't dismiss, "feelings" and emotional stress, because they are measurable and real. Please do not dismiss my fears as erroneous because they are based on likely and significant impacts. I can testify to the fact that I feel this and my community of friends and associates have expressed similar impacts. Please study this cumulatively because, from listening comments at the public hearings on the proposed G.P.T. project, it is clear that other people, all over our nation, are experiencing similar feelings and stress.

Sincerely,

